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SUBJECT Conditions in Tashkent

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. During World War II, the population of Tashkent swelled to a figure somewhere between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000. This increase was primarily the result of the influx of people evacuating from the Ukraine and the Moscow area. Since 1948, however, the population figure has decreased somewhat and, in 1949, the population was said to be between 1,300,000 and 1,500,000.

In the vicinity of Tashkent there are more Uzbeks than any other nationality; there are also some Kirgiz along with the primitive people of Central Asia. However, the European Russians (from Greater Russia and the Ukraine) and a few Armenians and Jews form the upper class of the residents.

the number of European Russians has increased rapidly since the end of World War II and at present there are several hundred thousand more of them than before the war.

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3. In the city the European Russians can be recognized immediately by their appearance and by their clothes. The clothes of the women, in particular, have greatly improved since 1946 and 1947 and even seemed extravagant.

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the improvement in their clothing is indicative of an improvement in their standard of living.

4. The standard of living of the Uzbeks is about 10 percent lower than that of the Europeans and this economic difference is one of the causes of the unfriendly feeling of the natives toward the outsiders. One of the main reasons for this economic difference is the language barrier. All plans, directives, and drawings pertaining to the operation of the factories are in Russian. Therefore, those who cannot read the Russian language are forced to remain at the lowest level of factory hand and cannot be promoted to the job of foreman or above.

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5. Nevertheless, the Russian language has not yet become popular among the Uzbeks; only about 80 percent of the natives over the age of 50 can speak and understand Russian and they are all illiterate. The percentage of illiteracy among the young is lower because they have received instruction in the Russian language since grade school days. The Uzbek language is used for school education, but the Russian alphabet is used in place of the native Uzbek letters. Even so, only about 20 percent of the young can read and write Russian perfectly and these are included among the intelligentsia in this district.
6. In industry, therefore, the Uzbeks are handicapped and are made to do the dirty work. The resulting effect on their economic life causes them to bear a grudge against the Europeans. In addition to this, there is a natural feeling of resentment toward an outside race with different customs. The Uzbeks still adhere to many old feudalistic customs. For instance, a woman wears a Moslem veil when seen outdoors and is not allowed to wear western clothes.\*
7. The Kirgiz have many different customs and are more naive than the Uzbeks. They have a proverb which means that the Uzbeks are a cunning people, a fact which they resent. [redacted] this grudge against the Uzbeks was made apparent during working hours. 50X1-HUM

#### Attitude toward Jews

8. There is a bitter feeling against the Jews on the part of the people of Tashkent in general and the laborers in particular. The people feel that the Jews control all the trade and that during the war they accumulated vast riches from black market activities. They admit that the Jews are intelligent and complain that they do not like physical labor; in the factories there are many Jews who handle office work but there is not a single Jewish laborer. Half the barber shops in Tashkent are run by Jews and they control all eating and drinking unions and occupy important positions in the contractors' unions.
9. Although the Jews are at heart anti-Communist, they are attempting to plant their own people in the Party to protect their interests. They are interested in tying up their economic power with political power and absorbing illegal profits from underhanded dealings. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
10. The people have the following specific complaints about the Jews:
  - a. The Jews are cunning; when they enter the armed service they enlist as barbers and shoemakers and try to keep away from the front. They spend their time flattering their superior officers and attempting to stay away from the front where the fighting is going on.
  - b. During the war, when everyone else was having a hard time, the Jews were busy collecting gold coins, gold boxes, and other handicraft of gold and silver.
  - c. There are many female Jewish doctors at the State Hospital in Tashkent; they adjust their treatment of patients according to the money they receive. If they receive money, they will write out a certificate for a non-existent illness; if they receive no money, they will refuse to render aid for a real disease.

#### Mohammedanism

11. A large number of Uzbeks of the older generation believe in Mohammedanism and there are several Mohammedan temples in Tashkent. These natives are considered old-fashioned and out-of-date, however, and they are powerless in the Uzbek society. There is not a sign of religious faith in Mohammedanism among the population under the age of 30. [redacted]

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Standard of Living

12. [redacted] the lowest. 50X1-HUM  
possible living wage in Tashkent is about 600 rubles a month. 50X1-HUM  
[redacted] 65 rubles was necessary for food and clothing and, with this sum, it was barely possible to keep up the physical condition necessary for daily labor. If the cost of housing and fuel, both comparatively cheap in Tashkent, and the cost of luxuries and recreation is added, the total amounts to about 600 rubles. This means that among married low-class laborers and office workers, both husband and wife must work to maintain the minimum standard of living.
13. The list of wages given below indicates that most of the laboring class lives at or close to the lowest possible standard of living. Nevertheless, it is easier for the laborers to make a living now than it was before the decrease in prices which resulted from the lifting of restrictions in late 1947.
14. In 1947 and 1948, the cost of clothing was high in comparison with the cost of food. However, factories rationed out outer and under clothing to each laborer at a price lower than the usual market price. Some industries, particularly those engaged in construction work, rationed out food cheaper than the general market price.
15. The living standard of the Uzbek farmers, the majority of the Uzbek population, is even lower than that of the laborers. The clothes in which they are seen on the streets are much poorer, and they cannot purchase daily commodities the way the laborers can.
16. The Uzbek farmers are generally unconcerned with politics; the native laborers also are not well informed on political problems compared to the European Russian laborers. Sights like a debate or discussion centered around a newspaper in a factory are very rare and those involved in such discussions show little enthusiasm.

Wages

17. Following is a list of standard wages for laborers and office employees in Tashkent in 1948-1949.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Monthly Wage in Rubles</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Common laborers (20 to 31 years)	800 - 1,000	This category includes the greater part of all laborers.
Skilled laborers	1,000 - 1,500	There are about 2000 of these.
Female office help	400 - 600	The wages of office employees compared to those of the laborers are low regardless of sex.

18. Following is a list of wages for the staff of concentration camps,\*\*

<u>Type</u>	<u>Rubles per Month</u>
Commanding officer (major or old captain)	1,600 - 2,500
Female Doctor	2,000 - 3,000
Officers on duty (1st and 2nd lieutenants)	800 - 1,500
Female office employees and nurses	400 - 600

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The Communist Party in the Uzbek SSR

19. The Uzbeks really look upon Stalin as a god. Next in their admiration are Molotov and Malenkov. On the other hand, there is a strong feeling on the part of the people against the inferior type Communist Party member who specializes in thefts and oppression. Uzbek laborers hold a deep-rooted grudge against the managers and foremen, usually Communists, with whom they come into direct contact because of their illegal dealings, embezzlement, and, above all, their ill-treatment of the workers. Uzbeks have a particularly strong feeling against European Russian Party members. The Uzbeks as a people, however, are not psychologically capable of rising up against oppression.
20. Currently the Communist Party in the Uzbek SSR is concentrating its recruitment on the youth and on the intelligentsia; new recruits must undergo thorough screening and testing before they are sworn in. Efforts of the Party to recruit youth are centered in its Komsomol and Pioneer movements. These movements have limited scope because they are centered around the schools and the students do not appear to be enthusiastic; those who are unable to attend school for various reasons have no interest whatsoever in political problems. There are scarcely any cases of farmers or laborers taking part in these movements.
21. The only political instruction offered in the 10-year school in Tashkent is a course, "History of the Communist Party". The Party educational institution in Tashkent is the Marx-Lenin College, which is a night school at which laborer and farmer Party members and candidates for Party membership receive political instruction.
22. Those laborers who were not members of these movements when they were school-age must be recommended for Party membership. Such recommendation is usually made on the basis of continued and faithful service on the job and special deeds of merit, such as participating in the Stakhanovite Movement. After having been made members of the Party, these laborers have no rights or privileges.
23. Party members are required to set a good example for the public in both their business and private dealings, and they seem to make an effort to do so. They often meet to criticize themselves, and purges are carried out ruthlessly. Yet illegal dealings on the part of some Party members continue endlessly. Particularly common is the embezzlement of supplies of all kinds: cement, brick, paint, food, clothing.
24. Employees and laborers in factories are required to buy Government bonds. A set amount is deducted from each man's pay and the workers begrudge losing this portion of their income. Communist Party members are ordered to head these movements in the factories and, because a greater portion of their pay is deducted, they have a hard time making ends meet in their daily lives. Nevertheless, the standard of living of Party members, especially those on the high level, is more luxurious than that of non-members, judging from their clothing. The general public looks upon Party members with envy, therefore.
25. It is the young members who actually control the Party; those who have been in the Party since the days of the Revolution seem to be satisfied to hold honorary offices.
26. The older Uzbeks are not friendly toward the Party because the Party ignores them; most of them comply with Party wishes on the surface, however, even though at heart they do not wish to support it.

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